

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Appln. No. 10/042,321  
Docket No. Q68046

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 12 are independent claims.

The Examiner has objected to claim 12, alleging a minor informality. Applicant has amended the claim in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103**

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Okamoto (US 6,343,942). Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12, 15, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("APA"). Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over APA in view of Tanigawa (US 6,086,408). Claims 5, 11, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over APA and Tanigawa, and in further view of Mews et al. (US 5,931,691).

Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, and 12 so that these claims recite the lamp, the wires, and the connector. These claims are also amended to recite that the terminal member includes a wire connection portion at an end thereof that connects with the at least one of the wires, a connector connection portion at another end thereof that connects with the connector, and a lamp connection portion between the ends thereof that contacts the lamp.

None of the applied references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the invention of the amended claims. For example, the terminals 2 shown in APA Fig. 7 cannot correspond to the recited "terminal member" because the terminals 2 do not contact the wires 7.

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Instead, the press-connecting terminals 9 provide a connection between the terminals 2 and the wires 7 only.

In addition, although in Okamoto the bulb terminal fittings 19 provide a press connection with the wire 41, these terminal fittings 19 cannot correspond to the recited "terminal member" because they do not contact the connector. *See* Okamoto at Fig. 11. Moreover, the connector terminal fittings 30 cannot correspond to the recited fittings because, although the connector terminal fittings 30 provide a press connection with the wire 41 and project so as to contact terminal fittings of connectors, the terminal fittings 30 do not contact the lamp. *See* Okamoto at 5: 27-33 & Fig. 11.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 6, and 12. Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2, 7, 8, 15, 17 and 20 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1, 6, and 12.

Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1, 6, and 12 and because Tanigawa, which was cited by the Examiner as showing insertion grooves, does not cure the deficiencies in APA discussed above. Finally, Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 5, 11, 14, and 19 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1, 6, and 12 and because Mews, which was cited by the Examiner as showing *inter alia* a lamp socket with a wire

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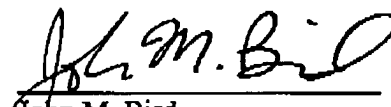
connection portion including a wire insertion groove, does not cure the deficiencies in the APA discussed above.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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